

From -
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RICHARD BRIDGE, A FAMILY HISTORY

Compiled by his wife, Sarah Kirkman and written by Ellen C. Maynard

Richard Bridge was born 21 August 1863 at Haydock Lane, England, the sixth child of John Bridge and Mary Berry who both accepted the Gospel in 1848.

Richard's parents were in humble circumstances but were filled with the spirit of the Gospel and his early years were lived under that influence. He was baptizied 4 May 1874 by George Partington (a member of the Branch) and confirmed on the 7th by Elder P.E. Walsh, a missionary in the Leigh Branch of the Manchester Conference, England.

He had very little schooling, going to work at eight years of age in the Sade Water, nail and clog iron factory of James Naylor at Atherton. Mr. Naylor and his wife took a great interest in Richard and as he grew older, gave him positions of trust in the clog iron department. He was a general favorite among the men and they would take him out on Sundays with them on their pleasure trips, gathering blackberries, etc. with the idea of inticing him away from the "Mormons" while very young he had a testimony of the Gospel and one day was kicked out of the workshop by the foreman for defending the honor of the prophet Joseph Smith. This opened his eyes to what they were trying to do and he never went out with them again. He often said they kicked him into the Church instead of out of it. He was brought back to work by Mr. Naylor and continued in his employ until he emigrated to Zion in 1882. He attended Sunday School and other meetings but was never ordained a Deacon or Teacher. He was ordained a Priest 26 January 1879 by George Openshaw (missionary) and to the office of Elder 16 May 1880 by Newton Farr (missionary). On 5 August 1881 he was set apart to preside over the Leigh and Tyldesly branch of the Manchester Conference and he has often told how he would walk four or five miles on Sunday mornings with kindling under his arm to make a fire ready for the Saints to meet in Sunday School. He was very active in the Churchwork and received many appointments to preach in other branches. The Elders often stayed at his parents' home and he would sit up late at night with them studying the Gospel. He loved to pray and his father always asked him to lead in family prayers. His father, mother, and their children prepared to come to Zion before he was born,

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but owing to measles breaking out among the children and his mother falling down the hatchway and breaking her leg before ^{the} boat sailed they were sent back home. After this, his father loaned his emmigration money to help two or three other families to gather to Zion and very little of it was ever returned to him. In 1880, Richard helped his father to come to Utah and in May, 1881 his mother, sister Martha, and brother James to come in the spring of 1882. After all the family had left, he sold the furniture and went to live with friends. He remained faithful and active in his church duties until he was released on 27 August 1882 to gather with his family in Zion. He sailed on the "Wyoming" 2 September 1882 from Liverpool in company with 600 other saints and landed in New York, 12 September 1882, he took the train and arrived in Echo 20 September 1882 and was met by his father, mother, sisters Jane and Martha and brother John, his brother James being at that time in Salt Lake to be married. His first job was white washing the meeting house in Spring Hollow. He lived with his parents that winter in Coalville and on 5 April 1883 went to Salt Lake City to work in the wholesale grocery department of the Z.C.M.I. and was soon transferred to the drug department where he remained for seven years. Soon after coming to Salt Lake, he took up night school and studied hard to gain an education becoming a member of the Utah Pharmaceutical Association, 15 December 1892 and passing the examination of the Utah Board of Pharmacy 15 March 1898.

He was married 2 August 1883 to Sarah Kirkman of Darcy Lever, Lane, England by Daniel H. Wells in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She came over on the same boat with him and thus was sealed a courtship which began in their very early childhood, they went to live on 3rd South between fifth and sixth east in the Ninth Ward. He was ordained a Seventy, 21 April 1884 by Seymour B. Young in the Eighth Ward school house and later became one of the Presidents of the 57th Quorum of Seventies. In July, 1885 they went to live in part of George and Elizabeth Coulam's house in the Eleventh Ward until they moved to their own home at 58 South 10th East in November, 1886. He was called to be a teacher in the 11th Ward Sunday School 9 January 1887 and was also called to act as ward teacher in company with Elder

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Peter Grey 10 May 1887. At the reorganization of the 11th Ward Sunday School 8 January 1888 he was called to be first assistant to Superintendent Willard Done with George G. Kelson as 2nd assistant.

He began to think of going into business for himself and in the fall of 1889 sold his home in the Eleventh Ward, squared up what debts he had and invested the money left in starting a business in Heber City, Utah. He moved his wife and three children from Salt Lake to Heber 31 October 1889 and opened up the first drug store in Heber City 18 December 1889 with a cash capital of about 800 dollars and stock paid for. For a long time business was very quiet and at times he thought his judgement had led him astray in leaving a good position in Salt Lake to locate in Heber. On their arrival there, they became members of the Heber West Ward and he was soon active in church duties filling many positions in the Ward and Stake organizations. Four children were born to them in Heber City and he often said they spent the best years of their life there. He was also active in political affairs and was Post Master for several years. In September 1901, he sold out the drug store to Dr. Wherritt and came back to their old home on 10th East.

(This is as far as we got when Ma took sick.)

He was ordained a High Priest 21 August 1921 by President U.G. Miller and ordained a Patriarch 1 September 1929 by Stephen L. Richards in the Granite Stake House.

Moroni Kirkman Bridge
Born Heber City Sept 3, 1890

Heaton Kirkman Bridge

Born Heber City April 9, 1892

Dilbert Kirkman Bridge

Born Heber City Ut. Nov. 1, 1893

Berry Kirkman Bridge

Born in Heber City Ut. Nov. 16, 1897

Antony

Anthony Bridge Smith

1427 So 1300 E.

A. L. C. Ut 84105

Daughter of Dilbert Kirkman
Bridge